

hate, and indifference are very real, and continue to pose serious threats. Yet, it is in the remembrance of the Holocaust and the commemoration of those who perished that we overcome these evils and symbolize a voice that speaks for the very essence of humanity.

I can think of no better place than the Rotunda of the United States Capitol to capture the appropriate elements of reverence and dignity necessary for the remembrance of the victims of this tragedy. And it is with such remembrance that we allow individuals to be educated about the Holocaust so that future generations will know the horrors of violent indifference. The United States Capitol has stood as a symbol for freedom and liberty, a symbol that brilliantly reflects the positive aspects of this country. The Capitol may once again serve as such a symbol, and at this time may reflect the inspiration that has allowed the survivors of the Holocaust and the friends and family of survivors to truly survive, and will also join the battle against the greatest enemy to the remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust, silence.

Mr. Speaker, indifference is not neutral and is not unspoken. Indifference has a voice in the present and in the past. And as we move sixty years beyond the Holocaust, our obligation in honoring those who perished will live on and be fulfilled by telling their grim but inspirational story from the hall of our government reserved for the highest tribute, the Capitol Rotunda.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 14, which will allow the use of the Capitol Rotunda for an April 18th ceremony to pay tribute and respect for the victims of the Holocaust. This day will be a demonstration of respect and remembrance for the Jews and their families whose property was stolen, hopes and dreams suffocated, and lives extinguished in the Nazi death camps and throughout Nazi-ruled Europe.

We also come together to recognize that if we are ever to witness a universal respect for human rights, we must begin by acknowledging the truth: Even today, governments still continue to commit atrocities against their own citizens while escaping the consequences of their actions, internally by means of repression and externally for reasons of political expediency.

The events that took place under Nazi rule were real. Real people—women, children, the old, and the infirm—were wiped out. The sheer scope of the slaughter was and still is shocking. And yet when so many react with silence or indifference to genocidal horrors occurring today, in Rwanda, Congo, and Bosnia, we effectively give our approval to genocidal abuses of power.

We must all recognize that silence can not be acceptance when it comes to human rights abuses. Not just violations of the past, but also against violations which are occurring in our world today. We must let the truth about these events be known and continue to speak out against all instances of inhumanity.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today to commend the authors of H. Con. Res. 14, legislation that will permit the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

I believe it is vital for the United States to continue to lead the way in the remembrance and prevention of crimes against humanity. And that is the exact purpose served by the legislation before us today, which will enable us to hold a solemn ceremony in the rotunda of the Capitol to remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust.

The important lesson learned by remembering the victims of the Holocaust is that man's inhumanity to man, if unchecked, can quickly result in the slaughter of millions of innocent people. Whether we honor the victims of the Holocaust at the U.S. Capitol, or whether we study the tragic story of other genocides, the universal lesson is that America has a national interest in assuring that the 21st century is not marred by genocide.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several months I have been honored to work with one of my constituents, Ms. Bonnie Glogover, of Edgewater, New Jersey in an effort to increase awareness about the Holocaust. Ms. Glogover, whose father is a survivor of Auschwitz, is working to see that Holocaust Remembrance Day is printed on calendars to educate the public about this important observance. Her unending dedication to this worthwhile cause is a tribute to our sworn duty to never forget, and I am proud to be associated with her in this endeavor.

This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day will be commemorated on April 19, 2001. I urge all my colleagues to inform their constituents of this and to join House and Senate leaders in the Capitol Rotunda this April to remember the innocent victims of the Holocaust.

I am honored to support H. Con. Res. 14 and I urge my colleagues to vote for this worthwhile legislation.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the sponsors and supporters of this resolution, permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust.

Prior to being elected to this House, I served as president of the Institute on the Holocaust and the Law. The Institute studies and analyzed how laws were used in the Holocaust as instruments of oppression, rather than protection. How over 400 anti-Jewish decrees were promulgated and formulated to discriminate, segregate, impoverish and annihilate. How judges used murderous interpretation of legal theory to impose death sentences for petty crimes. How law professors formulated lethal theories to advance a political agenda that affected millions, Jews and gentiles alike.

I believe it is fitting that we, as lawmakers, be reminded of the unique role of the law in the Holocaust; and the profound and vast difference between law and justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 14.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 14.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA ON JANUARY 26, 2001, AND SUPPORT FOR ONGOING AID EFFORTS

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 15) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 15

Whereas on the morning of January 26, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake shook the state of Gujarat in western India, killing untold tens of thousands of people, injuring countless others, and crippling most of the region;

Whereas the earthquake of January 26, 2001, has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused widespread fires, and destroyed infrastructure;

Whereas the people of India and people of Indian origin have displayed strength, courage, and determination in the aftermath of the earthquake;

Whereas the people of the United States and India have developed a strong friendship based on mutual interests and respect;

Whereas India has appealed to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the international community for the economic assistance to meet the substantial relief and reconstruction needs facing that country in the aftermath of the earthquake;

Whereas the United States has offered technical and monetary assistance through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and

Whereas offers of assistance have also come from the Governments of Turkey, Switzerland, Taiwan, Russia, Germany, China, Canada, and others, as well as countless nongovernmental organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the citizens of the state of Gujarat and to all of India for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquake of January 26, 2001;

(2) expresses its support for—

(A) the people of India as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities and their lives;

(B) continuing and substantially increasing the amount of disaster assistance being provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other relief agencies; and

(C) providing future economic assistance in order to help rebuild Gujarat;

(3)(A) supports the economic assistance efforts of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the international community; and

(B) urges the President to use United States influence with these bodies to expedite these efforts; and

(4) recognizes and encourages the important assistance that also could be provided by other nations to alleviate the suffering of the people of India.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 15.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 15, which expresses the sympathy and the condolences of the American people and the Congress of the United States following the devastating earthquake that struck western India January 26, 2001.

This earthquake, the most severe in India in the past 50 years, registered 7.9 on the Richter scale and caused incalculable human suffering and devastation. The resultant loss of life is estimated to be in the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands are homeless and injured.

President Bush has pledged to provide immediate assistance to India, which is in urgent need of medical supplies, food, and emergency relief equipment.

H. Con. Res. 15 supports the efforts of our government, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the international development community, in their endeavors to provide assistance to the Government of India and private voluntary organizations that are engaged in relief efforts.

Mr. Speaker, India is the most populous democracy on earth and a strategic partner of the United States. It is, therefore, fitting that the United States Congress express its sympathy and condolences to the people of India for the tragic loss of life and devastating destruction caused by this earthquake and support all bilateral and multilateral efforts to ease the human suffering in India and provide assistance in the reconstruction effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 15. I urge its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 15.

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of January 26, the devastating earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale ripped through Gujarat State in northwestern India, leaving in its wake destruction on a staggering scale. The full extent of the damage is as yet unknown, but the numbers of dead are at least in the tens of thousands, the number of injured in the hundreds of thousands, and the number of displaced is so far over a half a million.

The estimate of property damage now tops \$5 billion, but mere numbers cannot capture the extent of the devastation, nor the horror at the loss of life and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my personal condolences to all of those in India for the tragic losses that they have suffered.

□ 1045

I also want to express my condolences to those Indian-Americans whose families or friends have been affected by the earthquake. I know that the Indian-American community has mobilized since the earthquake to provide donations to those organizations that are assisting the relief operations on the ground in India, and the community should be commended for and assisted in its efforts.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has responded with a pledge of \$5 million in emergency assistance joining many other nations as the international community comes together to assist in the search and rescue effort.

I am sure that, in this hour of India's deepest need, the United States and the international community will continue to do all that they can to assist India in the rescue and reconstruction efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today expresses the deepest sympathies of the Congress to the people of India and expresses our support as the people of India begin to rebuild their lives. I urge all of our colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), one of the coauthors of this resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the new chairman of the Committee on International Relations, especially for expediting this

important resolution to make certain that it hit the floor today.

I worked on this resolution with the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), my fellow cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India; and it goes to the issue of the massive earthquake that with terrifying intensity hit the State of Gujarat in India on January 26. This is the most massive quake that India has faced in 50 years. It left in its wake tens of thousands of dead and injured. It devastated the infrastructure of the region.

The death toll has now been estimated anywhere between 20,000 and, incredibly, 100,000 human beings. These are staggering numbers, though the fatality statistics alone do not begin to convey the level of suffering that the people of India have endured and will endure for years to come as a result of this quake.

Indeed, the images of death and destruction we have seen on television are sobering. While the quake also impacted Pakistan and Nepal and Bangladesh, it is Gujarat that has been reduced to rubble. Thousands who have been left homeless must now deal with the loss of family members and the loss of their neighbors.

But in this tragedy, we were afforded a look at the strength of the human spirit. Alongside the devastation that occurred were the courage and determination shown by the people of India. Glimmers of that spirit came in the news that a mother and her baby were found among the survivors a full 4 days after the quake struck.

Offers of assistance have come from many countries. Not surprisingly, members of the Indo-American community have been quick to deliver their time and aid. Many Indo-Americans have family in Gujarat, though it is the Indo-American community as a whole that has stepped forward with a greatly impressive aid drive.

Over the weekend, USAID coordinated an airlift of emergency supplies to meet the immediate needs of the families in the region. President Bush has said that other airlifts are on the way. This resolution backs that effort in the strongest of terms which extends the American tradition of providing humanitarian aid.

The rebuilding of the state of Gujarat is a daunting challenge. Economic damage may top \$5 billion. While India enjoys a growing economy, U.S.-India commerce is growing, India is still, though, very much a developing country that can ill afford this damage, especially to Gujarat, which was an economic powerhouse of India.

But India has a strong partner in the United States. We can lend a hand. Indians and Americans share a strong friendship, one that is so promising because of our common security and economic interest as well as the bond of common values between the world's oldest and largest democracies.

This quake, by the way, struck on India's Republic Day, a time for India to celebrate the democratic values upon which it was founded 51 years ago.

Again, I want to commend the effort of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and applaud the support many Members of both parties showed by quickly cosponsoring this resolution. Showing solidarity now is in India's interest and it is in America's interest, and I urge passage.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. McDERMOTT), the cosponsor of the resolution before us and also the newly elected cochair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 15, the concurrent resolution to express sympathy to the victims of the earthquake and the Indian state of Gujarat.

It is really with a very heavy heart that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), my colleague and Indian Caucus cochair, has introduced this bill.

I went down to San Francisco on Friday to celebrate Republic Day with the Indian community. I have never been in such a sad place filled with people who had spent the day or the night trying to get through to find out if their families were still alive.

For those of us who live on the West Coast, a 7.9 earthquake is truly terrifying. I have never been through anything that strong, and I have been through some tough ones in Seattle, and I know the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) has in Southern California. The devastation was, of course, clearly going to be a bad earthquake. But no one realized that this was going to be the worst natural disaster in several centuries in India.

Several high-ranking government officials have already stated that the death toll is probably going to reach 100,000 people. Conservative estimates on property damage suggest a \$5.5 billion toll, and that is before there has really been an assessment of the problem.

This resolution simply expresses our sympathies and our support for efforts by our own country in relief efforts. The physical devastation of Gujarat will not be erased for many years, and the psychological scars may never be eliminated.

Gujarat is where Mahatma Gandhi came from. It is where independence sprang. His first nonviolent act was to walk from Ahmedabad, the city that was destroyed, down to the sea. This is a time of tragedy, then, for our friends in India and all its people. In recent years, we have grown increasingly closer to India. The President visited India. The Prime Minister visited the United States last year. It was truly an amazing year last year. Those ties have be-

come tighter and tighter in large measure because of the strong Indian-American community who has made an amazing impact in our country.

It has been this community that has come together to truly lead the American people's response to this natural disaster. I was in Seattle for the Republic Day celebration on Sunday, and they had already pledged a million dollars from Seattle.

India is a trading partner, a strategic partner and certainly an ally in democracy. I truly hope that our token of support is received by India and the people of India with our deepest sympathies.

This resolution, I am sure, will be unanimous on all sides of the aisle. I am happy this House has acted so quickly.

I want to thank Speaker HASTERT and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for acting so quickly and especially to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for waiving their jurisdiction so that we can vote on it today.

I would like to close by offering a Sanskrit benediction: "Sarva Mangalam Bha-vantu," peace to everyone.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the distinguished chairman emeritus of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), our distinguished chairman, for yielding. And I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for their sponsorship of this important resolution.

I am pleased to rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 15, a sense of the Congress expressing our sympathy for the victims of the recent tragic earthquake in India and support for our ongoing aid efforts. Our hearts and prayers go out to our friends and families both here and abroad who are anguishing and mourning over this enormous tragedy in India.

On January 26, a quake that hit India's Gujarat state measured 7.9 on the Richter Scale. As of yesterday, there were 6,287 people confirmed dead and 15,481 injured, with estimates putting the total number of fatalities projected to be as high as 100,000. That earthquake left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused widespread fires and devastation and impacted the entire infrastructure of that region.

My office has been in direct contact with Ambassador Celeste, our representative to India; and based on his report, we are confident that our State Department is acting swiftly and appropriately in this crisis.

Two days ago, our Nation's airlift, a 747 aircraft, loaded with supplies capable of assisting some 8,000 people, land-

ed; and U.S. funds have already been contributed to India's prime minister's relief fund.

Secretary of State Colin Powell has been permanently engaged in ensuring that our government does all that it can to help in sending emergency equipment and personnel to help relieve this suffering and then assessing how and where our assets can best be utilized.

We commend India's defense minister, George Fernandes, for his swift and impressive response to this crisis. He is well known as being a man of the people and his dedicated work of his soldiers is doing God's work.

It was reported yesterday that Prime Minister Vajpayee, while touring areas hardest hit by the powerful quake, pledged that no expense would be spared to rebuild the affected region as soon as possible. We in our Nation need to do all that we can to assist him in his efforts, and I look forward to hearing from the administration how we can be of further assistance.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 15 and urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the founder of the India Caucus and the former chairman.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I come to the House floor this morning. Last Friday, as we know, one of the most destructive and devastating earthquakes hit India. And the area hit hardest by the quake was Gujarat, an area where a majority of Indian-Americans in my home district of New Jersey come from.

Many of these Indian-Americans today are still waiting to hear whether or not relatives and friends are still alive. I want the millions of Indian-Americans to know that my prayers remain with them as the struggle to find victims and provide assistance to the wounded continues.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution that we have before us today says two very important things: first, that, as a country and as a Congress, we express our deepest sympathies to all Indians for the tragic losses suffered as a result of last week's earthquake; and, second, the resolution voices this Congress' belief that we must substantially increase the amount of disaster assistance being provided by USAID and other relief agencies. This is critical.

As of today, USAID has already sent \$5 million in emergency supplies to the area most devastated. This is a good start, but we must do more. That is why I have asked President Bush to immediately double the amount of money being sent to India through USAID. I believe that we will need to do more in the future, but this assistance will make a huge difference in the lives of those who are now suffering.

I just lastly want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the new chairman on the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, for introducing this resolution in such a timely manner.

I ask that my colleagues support this resolution so that the nation of India and millions of Indian-Americans here in the United States know that they are not alone in helping the victims of this devastating event.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise this morning to join the bipartisan voices of support to the nation of India during this extremely difficult time.

As was noted last Friday, western India, Gujarat, was struck by a devastating earthquake resulting in the loss of tens of thousands of lives. It has been mentioned that 100,000 might be reached, death and devastation that defies description. Perhaps the injuries will be in the hundreds of thousands, economic damage of \$5 billion or more, and perhaps even that is not measurable.

With the destruction of thousands of buildings and the devastation of the region's infrastructure, India is in great need of support from the international community. And I am glad to hear that USAID has weighed in with an initial response on January 27th of \$5 million. There is more to come.

Along with that, the international community, the European Union, the International Red Cross is on board. Things are happening, but it cannot happen fast enough.

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So, Mr. Speaker, I offer my condolences to all the families and individuals in India and the United States, and particularly those in my own district in Michigan who lost their loved ones, as well as those who have lost homes and possessions. I urge all Members to join in expressing our deepest sympathies and continued support as the people of India face the enormous task of rebuilding their country.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution and I commend the authors, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), as coauthors, for bringing this resolution forward.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank our ranking member for allowing me the time to come forward, and I thank also the two

chairmen, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for bringing this to the floor quickly.

As a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, where I serve on the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, this small appropriation that we are giving India today hopefully will be a first step in assisting them with the tragedy that they suffered on January 26.

I want to express my sympathy to the victims of the devastating earthquake and let them know that this Congress, USAID, the World Bank and the Asian Bank are working in partnership to make sure that we do what we can to help to rebuild that fabulous country.

It is important that we show our appreciation and support because millions of Indian-Americans, as has already been stated, here in this country have lost families in their homeland; over 20,000 and up to 100,000 people losing their lives.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to also express sympathy and offer support, and I hope that as we work through the foreign operations budget we will find more financing and more support for the people of India.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 15. I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and I want to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for so expeditiously bringing this very important resolution before us. Obviously, I want to thank the Members of Congress who crafted it, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

This is so important, and I certainly express my sorrow and my sympathy to the citizens of Gujarat, and all of India, for the losses that they have experienced caused by the tragic earthquake in India which occurred on January 26.

This earthquake was the most powerful to strike India since August 15, 1950. The Indian Government estimates that as many as 100,000 people are dead, 200,000 are injured. The media has reported that more than 500,000 people are displaced. And although logistical constraints continue to hamper relief efforts, the United States Agency for International Development's Disaster Assistance Response Team, Catholic Charities, and dozens of relief agencies have worked with the Indian Government in identifying several critical needs in affected areas. Hundreds of volunteers have offered themselves and equipment to the relief efforts, including earth-moving equipment, concrete

cutting and breaking supplies, medical equipment and supplies, mobile field surgical hospitals, portable water, sanitation facilities, food, and shelter.

Americans are traditionally very generous to those in need, be it an individual or an entire Nation. And this terrible incident is another example of how we have to come together to attempt to lessen the severe pain that the country of India is currently experiencing.

Although the search for survivors decreases by the day, we must remember the rebuilding period that will take decades. Literally hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children are homeless, widowed, orphaned, and helpless.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a large number of Indian-Americans in my district and to serve on the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans. I want to encourage all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the pain of an entire Nation and the courage of its people while offering long-term support.

Paraphrasing John Donne, who said, "No man or woman is an island; we are all connected to each other. The death of any man or woman diminishes me. The bell tolls for each of us." Let us respond.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), along with many Members of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans.

Let me first of all acknowledge the great contributions that Indo-Americans have given to this Nation. Celebrating the 51st anniversary of their democracy this weekend in Houston with some 5,000, it was very much emphasized the drawing together of this community to lift up India and their loved ones.

We realize there may be as many as 100,000 dead. And as we have watched every morning on television, we have seen not only the sadness but we have seen the courage, we have seen the ability of those in India to survive. And they want to survive and they want to try to save their family members. I am hoping, and I believe this resolution is of great importance to acknowledge their courage, to acknowledge the devastation and to begin to talk as a country to increase the amount of aid.

Let me applaud the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans for its request for additional aid, and I wish to acknowledge Condoleezza Rice and the Bush administration in responding to a call I made for an increase in aid. Let us give the Indian people sympathy and love and let us give them support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the sense of congress resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the recent earthquake in India. The earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, was truly devastating and horrific. The loss of human life and mass destruction of property that has been witnessed in India is sad and real. With at least 20,000 people killed, thousands missing or homeless, and the region's infrastructure totally devastated, the state of Gujarat and the Indian nation has an overwhelming task of rebuilding.

The earthquake had enormous affect in India's western Gujarat state, and governmental officials said thousands are injured or missing. The tremble caused high-rise buildings to shake from New Delhi to Mumbai and Kolkata. I have learned that the death toll could go as high as 100,000. Whatever the actual loss, such tragedies are difficult to ever justify morally or in any other logical fashion. It is a humanitarian disaster.

The United States can and should play a leading role in the international relief effort on behalf of India, given the growing ties with India and the burgeoning American-Indian Community in America. In fact, India and the United States have much in common as the world's two largest democracies. Last year, I had an opportunity to accompany President Clinton on his historic visit to India to further strengthen our ties with the people of India. The warmth and genuineness of the people of India was unforgettable.

This past weekend I attended a moving event with Indian-Americans from the 18th Congressional District of Texas. The Honorable Rinzing Wangdi, Consul General of India was in attendance. I had the opportunity to speak with a number of Indian-Americans who spoke about their shock and sadness regarding the earthquake.

Accordingly, I wrote and spoke with the Bush Administration officials, over the weekend, to ask for support of the Indian people. When meeting with American-Indians in my community, they urged me to seek assistance for the people of India. While I surely applaud the innovative efforts being taken within India to assist the victims during this traumatic time, urgent assistance is needed for the people of India. We have all learned by now that searchers in India used everything from sniffer dogs and sophisticated rock-cutting tools to screwdrivers and their bare hands to search for survivors. We must hope, of course, that any life that can be saved will be saved.

In bringing hope and expeditious relief to the people of India, we must listen to the growing Indian-American population for their guidance and expertise in emerging from this crisis. Indian-Americans, who have organized themselves into large numbers of associations and organizations, are playing an important role in strengthening cooperation in India and the United States. This is a promising sign for relations between our nations because we can pull together in times of need.

As a preliminary response, I am thankful that coordinated efforts by agencies such as the American Red Cross and international organizations are beginning to determine the needs of the survivors and those left without basic necessities. Contributions by individuals to such relief agencies will make such a

discernable difference in the life of the people of India that have suffered so severely.

Additionally, India will be seeking loans from the international community to rebuild the devastated areas. The Government of India is expected to seek loans from international institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The World Bank has thus far offered \$300 million, and has pledged to put together a longer-term assistance plan in consultation with the Gujarat state government. We understand that India may seek \$1.5 billion in multilateral loans.

Mr. Speaker, we must confront unilateral U.S. sanctions that are in place against India to bring some peace and stability to the affected areas. Under the unilateral sanctions regime on India that went into effect in 1998, the U.S. government was directed to oppose multilateral loans and credits to India. However, under legislation adopted by Congress, the President of the United States has the authority to waive certain sanctions, including the mandated U.S. opposition to World Bank loans, particularly those loans that would have a direct humanitarian benefit. Clearly, the present tragedy in India is an enormous humanitarian emergency.

Accordingly, I wish to join my colleagues and urge the Administration to fully support India's request for assistance through international financial institutions, and should work within the World Bank and other international organizations to expedite India's requests. It is the right thing to do and we all know it.

Mr. Speaker, at this time of enormous tragedy in India, it would send a positive signal of American concern and support if the remaining U.S. unilateral sanctions against India were waived to allow for friendlier and more normalized relations between our nations, and to remove any impediments for full and prompt delivery of assistance to India in this time of need. Let us be helpful and expeditious in this enormous time of need for the people of India.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I too want to express my deep sympathy and sorrow for those people in India who are suffering. It was truly a devastating natural disaster and certainly the concern of all Americans goes out to all these people.

I do have some concerns about how we respond so often to disasters like this because we believe that we can solve all our problems by just going to the taxpayers. I know that this does not seem like the appropriate time to raise the question, but there was a time in our history when we did not assume that it was a constitutional approach to tax poor people in America to help people in other parts of the world. We have always resorted to charities and volunteer approaches, and I still believe that is proper. I do not think there is evidence to show that aid to governments is necessarily the most efficient manner of helping other people.

There is also the moral question. We talk about what we are giving today, and it is substantial amounts, and we are substantially increasing it. It could be \$10 million. It could be \$100 million. But nobody talks about could it cost something. Well, there is a cost to it and it might hurt some innocent people in this country; the people who we do not know about. Somebody might not be able to build a house or get medical care. There may be somebody who will lose a job. There may be an increase in inflation. But we will never see those victims, so they are not represented. I think that if we were more determined to follow the rule of law and do this only in a voluntary manner we would not always place a burden on some innocent people in this country.

It was ironic that today, although there was talk earlier about sending some goods and surpluses, that actually the ambassador today sadly said he was not interested in any surpluses; he just wanted the dollars to come over there. And there may be a good reason for this, for efficiency sake or whatever. But in a way, I think if we have some surplus in food or something, we should be able to provide that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to express my sympathy for victims of the recent earthquake in the State of Gujarat, India and, at the same time, my concern for American taxpayers who, once again, will see their constitution ignored and their pockets raided by their representatives in Washington—it is, of course, easy to express sympathy with other people's money.

Without so much as a hearing in the International Relations committee, this bill comes to the floor and, while laudably expressing deep sympathy for victims of this terrible natural disaster in India, regrettably expresses support for (a) the World Bank; (b) "substantially" increasing the amount of U.S. taxpayer-funded, disaster assistance; and (c) future economic assistance to rebuild the state of Gujarat, India.

Setting aside for the moment that nowhere in Article I, Sec. 8 (the enumerated powers clause) of the Federal Constitution can authority be found to take money from U.S. taxpayers for this purpose, additional problems result from passage of this resolution as well as those actions certain to follow as a consequence of the bill's passage.

First, the notion of taxing the fruits of financially struggling Americans with no constitutional authority only to send it to foreign governments is reprehensible. One of the problems with such aid is that it ultimately ends up in the hands of foreign bureaucrats who merely use it to advance their own foreign government agendas thus making it less likely to get to those most deserving. One need only compare the success of private charities in this country with those government relief efforts to clearly see government's profound and inherently inept record.

Secondly, forced "contributions" erode any satisfaction that comes from being a charitable individual. Without the personal choice of giving or not giving to charitable relief efforts, the

decision to be charitable and the moral reward of so doing is completely eroded by the force-based government.

Lastly, as a result of such actions as these, participation dwindles worldwide for the most efficient means of dealing with such catastrophes, that is, private disaster insurance. When disaster costs are socialized, greater catastrophic results are encouraged as more people ignore the costs of living in riskier areas. At the same time, these same actors ignore the cost savings and other benefits of living in safer areas. Governments acting to socialize these costs actually stimulates the eventual death and destruction of more people and their property. (This, of course, is a lesson that the United States should learn to apply domestically, as well.)

While I truly do extend my heartfelt sympathy to those victims of the recent natural disaster in India, my duty remains to protect the U.S. taxpayer and uphold the constitutional limits of our Federal Government. For this reason and each of those detailed above, I must oppose this resolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 15.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, we heard of a devastating earthquake also in El Salvador. Here we go again, another earthquake that has profoundly affected the citizens of India.

As a former representative of the State of California, I had the privilege of working with the Indo-American community in the State of California to help establish a trade office there. I know that these individuals, both there and abroad, their families right now deserve our utmost support and sympathy, and particularly any humanitarian aids that we might provide.

I stand here before my colleagues, as a California representative, asking for full support and effort on behalf of our country for those mostly affected in the great country of India.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for bringing this quickly to the floor. Having just returned from India, I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the many victims of the recent earthquake. India is a beautiful country, with so many wonderful people. The scope of this disaster is just hard to imagine. Traveling across the country, I was amazed by the diversity in the culture and the hospitality of the hosts.

The devastation caused by this natural disaster has taken the lives of over 10,000 people but has impacted countless others, both in India and here in the United States. In my own district, the American-Indian community is very strong, and I am honored to consider many of them my friends.

It is difficult to imagine the magnitude of the devastation in India as we

speak here on the floor today, but I am deeply moved by the mobilization of the Indian community in response to this tragedy.

Let me borrow a quote from the inaugural address of President Bush. "Never tiring, never yielding, never finishing, we renew that purpose today; to make our country more just and generous; to affirm the dignity of our lives and every life. This work continues. This story goes on." That is America, there to help in time of need.

So I would encourage all Americans to consider contributing to one of the many aid organizations that participate in the recovery and aid the mission in India. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I thank all who participated in bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of House Concurrent Resolution 15 expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001 and support for aid efforts.

Relative to our population size, the Virgin Islands proportionately has one of the largest Indian communities in the United States. In many communities of the Caribbean, people who trace their ancestry to India make up an important part of the fabric of those societies. So on behalf of the Virgin Islands' community I wanted to join my colleagues in expressing our sympathy and concern, but more importantly in encouraging our country's support.

One finds it difficult to imagine how a Nation will cope with a tragedy which estimates total deaths possibly as many as 100,000 people. They can only do so with our and the world's help.

I want to commend President Bush for his quick response in offering assistance to the people of India. Likewise, I want to commend the Speaker; our minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT); and my other colleagues for doing the same with this resolution today, and I urge its support.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

As chairman of the subcommittee on science that oversees what we do on earthquakes in the United States, I would like to sort of make two comments. Number one, we are going to do whatever we can in this country to relieve some of the suffering and some of the damage that has been caused by earthquakes in India, so certainly I support this resolution. But I would like to call to all my colleagues' atten-

tion, to the attention of the American people, that this is not isolated to some other country; something that might happen someplace else.

We have had serious earthquakes in the United States and will continue to have very serious earthquakes. The Loma Prieta earthquake was an estimated \$6 billion worth of property loss in addition to human life. And of course the Northridge in 1994 was an estimated \$40 billion loss of property as well as a great deal of damage to our physical health and well-being in California. It is a challenge.

We have passed a bill this past year which is probably the most aggressive effort in giving us a better time frame to determine what we can do in that short time period to reduce the damage to human and physical property.

□ 1115

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the vibrant Indo-American community in my district, many of whom who have relatives in Gujarat, I rise in strong support of the resolution and thank the distinguished co-chairman of our Caucus on India, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who I was honored to travel with them and the President to India last year.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, which expresses sympathy for the loss of lives and Congress' commitment to help our ally, India, the world's largest democracy.

I know that USAID and other U.S. agencies are working hard to respond to this crisis. It is also important that we all work to get accurate information to our constituents so that they can know, in the earliest time possible, what has happened to their loved ones.

I certainly pledge to do my part and am happy once again to congratulate the authors of this resolution.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District to express our deepest sympathies to the people of India for the losses suffered in the recent earthquake in Gujarat.

As we see the victim toll continue to rise, I pledge my support to those efforts in aiding India and its people to recover and rebuild their cities and their lives.

I hope that the Committee on Financial Services will take an extensive look at helping India through the Asian Development Bank. The U.S. contribution to the Asian Development Bank can provide an effective way to

help India rebuilt its cities and keep its society going.

I applaud the Bush administration's active role and those of all international organizations in supporting the people of India at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) a member of the committee.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is with such sadness that I rise today to speak of the enormous tragedy which has befallen the Indian people. The earthquake that struck Gujarat on January 26 has taken such a toll and the suffering continues.

I recently had the opportunity to travel to India and witnessed firsthand the grandeur of this great nation. I experienced the generosity and warmth of the Indian people and benefitted from their friendship.

The Indian people have overcome many challenges to become a great leader in technology and commerce. As the world's largest democracy, India is a great friend to the United States and an important ally. I trust we all are and will do all we can to help our friends in this, their time of need.

I commend the efforts in my district through a nonprofit agency, Direct Relief International, where shipments of medical supplies are on their way in a coordinated effort. I know that this aid we send cannot end their suffering, but we must reach out a helping hand and our prayers to our friends in India and to Indian Americans here at home.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) has 2½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, on January 26 of this year, India suffered a tragic and deadly earthquake that stole the lives of thousands. It is with my deepest and heartfelt sympathies that I offer my prayers for all those affected by the earthquakes in western India.

I have spoken with Indian Americans in my district in New Jersey who are experiencing tremendous grief. My thoughts are with them and their family and friends and all of those who have been affected by this unbelievably tragic event.

Now that several days have passed and the critical threshold for time for the rescue of survivors is dwindling, I can only point to the recovery of a 7-year-old child, who was found in the arms of her deceased mother, as a sign of hope that there are still survivors. It

is faith that has kept these survivors alive. We must not lose ours.

In the aftermath of these earthquakes, the people of India have shown an enormous display of strength, courage, and determination. We must support the thousands of survivors who have been left in shock and who are in desperate need of medical care, food and shelter.

We must ensure that the United States and international aid is delivered to provide both economic and disaster assistance in order to alleviate the suffering of the people of India in a timely fashion.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the resolution before us, which expresses our deep sorrow and sympathy for the horrifying earthquake that devastated India, the world's largest democracy, on January 26.

In spite of this enormous natural disaster, the will of the Indian people perseveres as they try to recover and meet the latest challenge placed before them. Many of my constituents have family, friends and loved ones that live in Gujarat, the hardest-hit region, and my thoughts and prayers are with them.

Our shared democratic values and commitment to the rule of law and basic freedoms demonstrate why it is in America's interest to assist India, a growing trading partner, in its full recovery. While the Agency for International Development has already provided several millions of dollars in emergency humanitarian and disaster assistance, I hope President Bush will seek to do more.

Even though the earthquake will have a negative impact on India's growing economy, India should continue with its bold economic liberalization and revitalization efforts. Through those efforts, the United States will remain its largest foreign trading partner and investor.

The Indian-American community, which has played a strong and productive role in strengthening ties between India and the United States, has responded strongly in the midst of their overwhelming grief. The effects of this unfolding tragedy will be felt over time, but it remains necessary to continue with relief efforts and begin to consider the long-term steps necessary to help India rebuild itself.

I hope our Government will continue to support the relief efforts of AID, private voluntary organizations, and international financial institutions to supplement for the vigorous efforts of the Indian government as it helps its citizens recover and rebuild their lives. It gives us the sense of universality of our citizens, the citizens of the world.

And in moments of need, this is the time which the United States has a tremendous opportunity to help.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the original conceiver of this resolution before us today, who has been very gracious in cooperating both with the leadership and with the women members of our delegation to allow them to speak before him, as well.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, and my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for their sensitivity in expediting this important resolution to the floor.

I also take this opportunity to commend and thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the co-chairs of the Caucus on India, for their leadership in drafting this important resolution.

I was also pleased to have a resolution which I submitted rolled in this one so that there would be one strong resolution and one strong display of unity.

I rise today on behalf of the people of the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois to offer support, sympathy and condolences to the people of India in light of what has been called one of the most deadliest and most devastating earthquakes ever to strike that country.

On Friday, January 26, India was struck by a devastating earthquake that measured 7.9 on the Richter scale. The earthquake has flattened the second most industrialized city in India. In addition, to causing massive destruction to the infrastructure of India—thousands of lives have been lost. As of today, the official death toll stands at more than 7 thousand. According to Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes, the death toll could go as high as 100 thousand, with twice as many injured. Moreover, more than 200,000 people are said to be homeless as a result of the devastating destruction to many of the buildings in Western India. Thousands of India citizens remain traumatized by the continuous strong tremors and aftershocks—some ranging up to 5.6 magnitude on the Richter scale, that continue to hit India.

Hundreds of thousands of persons are plagued with the prospect of no food, no running water for bathing or cooking, no blankets to stay warm and no working telephones to make contact with family.

But even in the midst of this tragedy, there are heartwarming stories that must be told. For example, the enormous outpouring of aid from the world community and especially Pakistan. Other stories include children and babies being pulled out of the rubble after being buried for 3–4 days. The remarkable story of the

human heart and how it is able to triumph over tragedy. In Chicago, and other cities relief efforts are underway. There are the remarkable doctors, nurses and other medical personnel volunteering to work urgently against time to save as many victims as possible. Their dedication to save life regardless of the lack of medical supplies available to them, at times moving from victim to victim without time to sterilize their medical instruments. I praise the medical personnel who are doing everything possible to save their fellow citizens during this tragic time in their country.

It is estimated that the damages caused by the earthquake will be \$5.5 billion. India is in need of mobile surgery units, simple medications, bandages, splints, and electronic equipment to help search for bodies buried in the rubble. India has already begun to receive aid in forms of search dogs, cranes, generators, and experienced rescuers. The United States has committed \$5 million in aid to be sent to India.

I call on all citizens of the United States to assist India in its rebuilding efforts. Crisis situations, like the one in India, calls for genuine unity among nations. It has been predicted that the rehabilitation and reconstruction may take another 10 to 20 years. The need for support to India will continue to exist after the rubble has been plowed away and the dead memorialized. This Resolution says that we, as a nation, will continue to be by India's side during its transformation back into a state of normalcy.

I want to commend the world community for its swift action and response and especially the country of Pakistan. I also want to commend all of the medical personnel, the doctors and nurses, and others who have given so much of themselves so that they could be of help.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my new intern, Jennifer Luciano from Loyola University. This was her first work effort, and I think she did an outstanding job.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the depth of the suffering and tragedy in India I think is obvious. But I think what is not, perhaps, obvious is to the extent of how close our relationship will be with the Indian people over the next several decades.

I would suggest that one of, and just one of the reasons we should significantly increase our aid to India at this time is that we are going to have a relationship with India, the world's largest democracy, I believe, in the next several decades every bit as close and important, as vital and productive as our previous relationship with the continent of Europe in the last several centuries. And because of that, we ought to significantly increase, is my belief, our commitment, which, at this moment, stands at, I believe, \$5 million.

My growing friendship with the Indo-American community, seeing the cre-

ative talent that has come to our community in my district, which is the major reason for the economic explosion in my district with their creative talents, leads me to conclude that India is going to be every bit as important as the European community.

I want to compliment the Bush administration in trying to assess the damage in India. I have spoken to two assistant secretaries in the last 2 days about that. But I do want to encourage the executive authority to significantly increase the aid on an emergency basis, even before we can do an emergency supplemental. And the reason I say that is, the executive staff does have the ability to do this at this time. There are funds in the various accounts to be able to do so. And it is my belief that this would be a tremendous step for the new administration to take, to come up with an aid package in multiples of \$5 million.

It would demonstrate the compassion that is the basic character of the country, but it would also demonstrate that this new administration intends to have a proactive beneficial international policy.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from the State of New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, while thousands of individuals celebrated their domestic accomplishments and democratic government a week ago on Republic Day, the earthquake shook the ground that they marched on and turned a festivity into a disaster for hundreds of thousands.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of traveling again in India, a country rich in heritage, beauty and traditions, a country quickly rising in economic power.

Now, however, despite the dismal reports, small glimmers of hope are emerging from the darkness. Just yesterday, a 24-year-old computer student, Veeral Dalal, a resident of my State of New Jersey, was rescued in Bhuj after spending 4 days with only 8 inches of room between him and a collapsed ceiling.

Americans are generous to those in need. We stand ready to offer assistance. Mr. Dalal is just one example of how grief can be mitigated with hope. But we must stand ready not only to offer help and rescue, recovery, and emergency shelter and care, but also in the longer-term efforts in community planning and reconstruction of a modern infrastructure in keeping with the great country of India and our growing closeness to democratic countries.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 15 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. HYDE and Mr. DAVIS, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN).

I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the victims of the devastating earthquake that occurred on the morning of January 26 of this year in the Indian state of Gujarat in western India and the families of the victims both in India and the United States.

As a member of the Caucus on India and as a representative of a sizable population from Gujarat and other parts of India in my home district, I will do everything I can to help my constituents reach out to their families and friends who suffered tremendous losses as a result of this terrible event.

□ 1130

I will be meeting with leaders of the Indian community in my district this Thursday to talk about the relief efforts that are under way thus far.

I wish to commend the gentlemen from California, Illinois, New York, and Washington for their leadership in rapidly responding to the Gujarat earthquake over the last several days. I also want to extend my thanks to the Bush administration, Secretary Powell, and USAID for their quick response to the situation in India and the release of emergency funding.

As my colleagues have done, I urge the Bush administration to increase the amount of technical and monetary support both for immediate disaster relief as well as for long-term reconstruction of the Gujarat state economy. I also urge the Bush administration to support World Bank funding for earthquake relief.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to conclude by thanking the distinguished new chairman of the House Committee on International Relations on what appears to be his first successful handling of a bill in that committee on the floor. He shows a lot of promise.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened by the news of the earthquake in India's Gujarat state and would like to offer my sincerest condolences to the families of India. In this time of tragedy, the people of India can be assured that we will stand by them and continue to offer our support. We will do all we can to aid those who are suffering and those who must begin the difficult process of rebuilding.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the House today with a heavy heart to express my profound sorrow and sympathy for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake in India.

This terrible act of nature destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, crippled

roads and bridges, and unleashed raging fires. But, my colleagues, the most devastating toll of destruction resulting from last Friday's earthquake is not on the physical structures in India, but on the citizens of India themselves. Tens of thousands of Indian people were killed as a result of this earthquake, and a myriad of others were critically injured.

Mr. Speaker, I know from my personal involvement with the Indian-American community in my congressional district and from my service on the Caucus on India and Indian-Americans that the people of India and the United States have long enjoyed a hearty and prosperous friendship. I am also very aware of the strong sense of community and social responsibility that Indian-Americans possess. When a tragedy of this magnitude occurs, the Indian people both domestic and abroad, rally this spirit of community and fellowship to help the plight of those suffering from harm.

We too must answer this call to service and community, and reaffirm our support for the people of India in this time of dire need. That is why I became an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 15, which officially recognizes and encourages efforts to alleviate the suffering of the people of India. I fully support continuing and increasing the amount of disaster assistance provided to India by the United States Agency for International Development, and encourage other financial institutions such as the World Bank to provide economic assistance.

While no amount of money could ever hope to replace the loss of life, we can endeavor to ease the suffering and help the reconstruction efforts of those survivors left to pick up the pieces. I am pleased that H. Con. Res. 15 passed the House overwhelmingly earlier this afternoon. Once again, Mr. Speaker, let me express my condolences to the victims of the Indian earthquake.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before the House today and pledge support to H. Con. Res. 15, a concurrent resolution expressing sympathy for those suffering due to the devastating earthquake in India. As a member of the India Caucus I want to commend Representatives McDERMOTT and ROYCE who introduced this resolution and so quickly brought it to the House floor.

On January 26, an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale occurred in western India. The epicenter of the earthquake was located 12 miles northeast of Bhuj in Gujarat State, India. Since January 26, there have been 77 confirmed aftershocks, 19 of which registered above 5.0 on the Richter Scale. On January 28, two aftershocks caused additional structural damage. Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh were also impacted. The earthquake was the most powerful to strike India since August 15, 1950, when an 8.5-magnitude earthquake killed 1,538 people in northeastern Assam state.

This enormous tragedy has left tens of thousands of people dead, hundreds of thousands homeless, and the region's infrastructure devastated. The state of Gujarat and the entire nation of India face an enormous task of rebuilding. Friday's quake flattened two cities in India's western Gujarat state, and government officials said thousands are injured or still missing.

In addition to the relief assistance already being provided by the Government of India, I am here today to support United States efforts as well. On January 27, the United States Agency for International Development/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) announced that it is prepared to provide \$5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance. Mr. Speaker, the United States has a long history of support for other nations in their time of need. And I join other Members of the Congress in supporting these efforts for India.

I am pleased to be working with members of the Indian community in my congressional district to expedite assistance to those in need.

My prayers are with those affected by the earthquake and those in my district and other Americans who have family and friends in India.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 15, which expresses Congress' sympathy to the citizens of Gujarat, India, for the devastating losses suffered as a result of last week's deadly earthquake. This resolution urges economic and disaster assistance to help the victims of this disaster rebuild their lives. As an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 15, and a longtime friend of India, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for this measure.

This tragedy has cost the lives of tens of thousand in India, injured more than 100,000, and displaced more than a half million men, women, and children. Fires still burn throughout the devastated region. The damage to the region is expected to exceed \$5.5 billion. In the face of such a catastrophe, it is imperative that the global community actively respond. Already, nations around the globe, and countless non-governmental organizations, have offered assistance to India. We in the United States can do no less. I commend President Bush for quickly offering assistance to India, and urge my colleagues to do still more.

I offer my condolences to the people of India, and especially the victims of the Gujarat earthquake and their families. I thank my colleagues, Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. ROYCE, for offering this resolution, and urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 15 which expresses the sympathy and support of the American people and the U.S. Congress to the victims of the devastating earthquake in western India. On Friday, January 26, the Indian State of Gujarat was struck by a massive quake which was felt across the subcontinent from Pakistan to Nepal and Bangladesh. For Gujarat, the calamity was overwhelming—thousands have lost their lives and countless others have been rendered homeless and destitute.

The Government of India has been coping heroically in the face of such widespread destruction. The Indian Armed Forces have been the backbone of this response, joined by thousands of ordinary people who have put aside their own personal loss to help save lives and provide assistance to others.

The aftershocks of the quake can be felt around the world and in our own country as thousands of Indian-Americans face the loss of loved ones.

I want to commend the Bush administration and the U.S. Agency for International Development for immediately responding to the emergency by providing \$5 million in humanitarian assistance and dispatching a plane load of supplies and relief experts to the region.

I also want to commend the American people, particularly the Indian-American community for their tremendous outpouring of concern and offers of assistance to the victims of the disaster. As we have seen time and again, during the recent earthquake in El Salvador and other foreign disasters, the generosity and caring of the American people knows no boundaries.

The world community has also recognized the enormity of this disaster and aid has been flooding in from all corners. But I am afraid that even this generous response will be inadequate in the face of such overwhelming destruction.

This resolution pledges the support of the U.S. Congress to provide additional assistance to the Indian Government and the people of Gujarat as they try to rebuild their lives and their country.

In light of the very special relationship between the United States and India, I think it is important that we send this message of solidarity and hope to the people of India.

There will be dark days ahead for the people of India as they dig out from beneath the rubble, cremate the dead and try to piece together their lives and livelihoods. But they can take comfort from the fact that they are not alone in facing this challenge. America and the world will stand by India in its hour of need.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of this resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the January 26, 2001, earthquake in India. The earthquake and the subsequent aftershocks have killed tens of thousands of people.

On the heels of a large earthquake and mudslides in El Salvador, the earthquake in India has again challenged the international community to respond to people in need. And again we have responded with overwhelming support. Countries from the United States to Great Britain to Israel to countries around the world responded with humanitarian aid.

Most heartening is the aid provided by Pakistan. Despite the ongoing conflict over the disputed territory along the Indian-Pakistani border, Pakistan has reached out to its neighbor to help in a time of need, just as India has during natural disasters that have devastated Pakistan. It is my hope that through this tragedy these two enemies can put aside their differences to create a lasting peace.

I applaud the pledge of support by USAID, and hope that this Congress will provide further resources to help the people of India recover from this disaster. This resolution also commits the Congress to providing additional funding to disaster assistance. It is my hope that when it comes time to appropriate this money, this body will consider disaster assistance a higher priority than a tax cut or an aircraft carrier or a national missile defense system. Wherever and whenever there are people suffering around the world the United States

should respond to those people in need through support of international efforts. We should make it the cornerstone of our foreign policy to help those who suffer from not only natural disasters, but also those who suffer under inhumane sanctions, disease, and war.

On behalf of the many Indian-Americans and constituents in my district, I join with my colleagues in expressing our deepest sympathies with the people who have lost family members, homes, and businesses in this disaster. I am confident that with the outpouring of international aid and support coupled with the enduring resilience of the Indian people, that they will be able to rebuild and continue to move forward. Also, we thank all those individuals, organizations, and countries who respond to disasters throughout the world.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, as the devastating results of the earthquake in Gujarat, India continue to unfold before the world's eyes, I believe I speak for all citizens of the United States when I say sorrow fills every heart and soul.

When tragedy of this magnitude strikes, its impact is not isolated by physical boundaries. The pain is felt by the entire world. Let us, as individuals, remember that while we have all experienced loss in our own lives at one time or another, many Indian families lost everything they had in one devastating moment. Therefore, let us, as members of local communities, reach out to our Indian friends, neighbors and coworkers and do all that we can to ease their pain and suffering. Let us, as a country, use the resources we've been blessed with to help the Indian government cope with this widespread destruction and loss of life.

Personally, I send my deepest sympathy to those families affected by this cataclysmic disaster. I, along with my family and my staff, also extend our hearts and hands to the Indian community here in America. With humbled hearts, we will pray for strength for the Indian nation.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today in support of H. Con. Res. 15, which expresses sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and provides support for ongoing aid efforts.

This Member would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for introducing this sense of the Congress resolution and for his efforts in bringing this measure to the House floor today.

As is well known, on the morning of January 26, 2001, a deadly earthquake shook the state of Gujarat in western India, which injured and killed untold thousands of people and has left the building infrastructure in ruin.

India has appealed to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the international community for the economic assistance to meet the relief needs facing India. It is important to note that the Asian Development Bank promotes development in the Asia-Pacific region through project investment lending, policy reform lending and advice, and technical assistance.

As the chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, which has jurisdiction over the World Bank and the regional development

banks such as the Asian Development Bank, this Member wants to convey his strong support for these aid efforts for India.

This sense of the Congress resolution was referred to both the House Financial Services and House International Relations Committee. As a member of both of these committees, this Member would like to encourage his colleagues to vote in support of H. Con. Res. 15.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution recognizing the recent tragedy in India as a result of a devastating earthquake and the horrific loss of life experienced by the Indian nation.

I want to commend the gentleman from Washington for introducing the original resolution.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time we are expressing our sympathy and support for the people of India, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues another tragic earthquake which recently hit El Salvador with equally horrific devastation and loss of life.

On January 13 an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6, only 3 tenths of a point less powerful than the earthquake in India, rocked El Salvador. It is estimated that close to 1,000 people lost their lives, with another 4,000 injured.

Recently, I visited El Salvador along with several of my colleagues and witnessed first hand the tragedy which has engulfed that nation. We were told that over 75,000 houses were destroyed and another 118,000 damaged ultimately affecting well over 1 million Salvadorans.

Mr. Speaker, just when the people of El Salvador seemed to have recovered from the devastating effects of Hurricane Mitch, this tragedy hits forcing new sacrifices from an already battered population.

But as they did after Mitch, the people of El Salvador have already begun to put their lives back together with a fierce spirit of self-determination, and a lot of help from friends far and wide.

And although we are dealing here with the tragedy in India, I want to recognize the valiant efforts of the people of El Salvador, the hard work of their President, Flores and other government officials for their tireless efforts. I especially want to commend the dedicated people at the Agency for International Development and their Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance for their rapid reaction to this disaster and for the aid they provided on a moments' notice and continue to provide today as Salvador recovers.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the horror of these kinds of tragedies and the toll they take on the people of the nation affected. I want to salute those brave men and women in both India and El Salvador for the sacrifices they have made in these times of tragedy.

I urge support of this resolution and for the people of India and El Salvador.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 15.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today and on the approval of the Journal.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 14, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 15, by the yeas and nays;

approval of the Journal, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY AS PART OF COMMEMORATION OF DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 14.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 14, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 6]

YEAS—407

Ackerman	Bentsen	Brady (PA)
Aderholt	Bereuter	Brady (TX)
Akin	Berkley	Brown (FL)
Allen	Berry	Brown (OH)
Andrews	Biggert	Brown (SC)
Armey	Bilirakis	Bryant
Baca	Bishop	Burr
Baird	Blagojevich	Burton
Baker	Blumenauer	Buyer
Baldacci	Blunt	Calvert
Baldwin	Boehert	Camp
Ballenger	Boehner	Cannon
Barcia	Bonilla	Cantor
Barr	Bonior	Capito
Barrett	Borski	Capps
Bartlett	Boswell	Capuano
Barton	Boucher	Cardin
Bass	Boyd	Carson (OK)